

Attorney Docket No. 233-593-USP

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The first attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 16. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 16 & 17, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 16 & 17. In FIG. 16, reference number 888 has been changed to 887. Reference number 890 has been changed to 888. Reference number 892 has been changed to 889.

The second attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 21. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 21, 22 & 23, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 21, 22 & 23. In FIG. 21, previously omitted reference number 892 has been added.

Attachment:           2 Replacement Sheets  
                          2 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6, 10-13, 15, 19-22, 24, 28-31, 33 and 37 stand rejected. Claims 38-46 have been allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 7-9, 14, 16-18, 23, 25-27, 32, and 34-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 5, 14, 23 and 32 as the Examiner has suggested.

**Objections to Drawings**

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Specifically, the Examiner has objected to FIG. 3, because the elements labeled with reference numbers 90 & 92 were assertedly not set forth in the specification. See 2/6/06 Office Action, p. 2.

Applicants have amended the specification to include more specific description corresponding to the elements labeled with reference numbers 90 & 92. Specifically, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 14, and ending on page 8, line 24. See Amendments to the Specification, *supra*. Thus, Applicants believe the objection to FIG. 3 is improper and should be removed, in light of the amendments to the specification herein.

Additionally, the Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4). Specifically, the Examiner has objected to FIG. 16 because: I) the reference number "890" has been used to designate both a step in FIG. 16 and an interface converter paddle; and II) the reference number "892" has been used to designate both a step in FIG. 16 and an interface converter paddle. Applicants have amended FIG. 16 to delete reference numbers "890" and "892." The elements of FIG. 16 have been renumbered to eliminate the double reference. Applicants have also amended the specification to be consistent with these Amendments to the Drawings. See Amendments to the Specification, *supra*. The objections to the drawings are thus traversed, and are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

**Objections to the Specification**

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure at page 18, line 31, stating that "transceivers 810" should be "transceivers 820." Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended the disclosure at page 18, line 31, to recite "transceivers 820." See Amendments to the Specification, *supra*.

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The Examiner has objected to the disclosure at page 21, line 22, stating that "coupled to transceivers 810" should be "coupled to transceivers 820." Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended the disclosure at page 21, line 22, to recite "coupled to transceivers 820." See Amendments to the Specification, *supra*.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure at page 23, line 3, stating that "notifies serdes 810" should be "notifies serdes 830." Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have amended the disclosure at page 23, line 3, to recite "notifies serdes 830." See Amendments to the Specification, *supra*.

The Examiner has also objected to the title of the invention. The Examiner has stated that the "title of the invention is not descriptive," and has indicated his preference for a new title that is "clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed." See 2/6/06 Office Action, p. 3. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that their current title, CONVERTING DATA SIGNALS IN A MULTIPLE COCOMMUNICATION PROTOCOL SYSTEM AREA NETWORK, is sufficiently descriptive and clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.72 and MPEP §606, the title of the invention must be as short and specific as possible. The title should be brief but technically accurate and descriptive. Applicants assert that their current title is technically accurate and descriptive and maintains the required brevity.

Thus, Applicants assert that the objections to the specification are thus obviated and/or traversed, and are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

#### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6, 10-13, 15, 19-22, 24, 28-31, 33 & 37 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Latif et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,400,730; hereinafter referred to as "Latif"). Applicants respectfully traverse this argument.

With regard to the Latif reference the Examiner refers specifically to Applicants' claim 19 and then asserts that these arguments also apply to all other independent claims in the same way. Thus, Applicants will also address claim 19 first, and then address the other independent claims.

Claim 19 recites:

A method for converting data signals, comprising:

determining whether a coupled interface converter paddle coupled to a serdes comprises a first interface converter paddle or a second interface converter paddle, the first interface converter paddle associated with a first communication protocol, the second interface converter paddle associated with a second communication protocol;

identifying the communication protocol associated with the coupled interface converter paddle;

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receiving a plurality of data signals from the coupled interface converter paddle; and  
deserializing the data signals according to the identified communication protocol.

Latif generally discloses a method and apparatus for transferring data between IP devices over an IP network. See Abstract. Specifically Latif discloses data exchanges between storage devices using a switch 135. Switch 135 is apparently configured to receive data from different interfaces, each apparently having a different data or frame format. See col. 6, lines 44-48. Switch 135 the apparently translates data received from a source port in one of three formats into an internal format and transfers the data in the internal format through switch fabric 140 to a destination port. See col. 6, lines 52-55.

Latif does not disclose any teachings on how or with what apparatus, if any, the different data formats are translated within switch 135. Certainly, Latif does not disclose a device, such as the coupled interface converter paddle of Applicants' claim 19, which determines whether or not it is coupled to a first interface converter paddle or a second interface converter paddle. Latif is silent on any methods of converting different types of data signals, let alone using any converter paddles for such a purpose, as disclosed by Applicants' claim 19. Certainly, Latif does not disclose each and every element of Applicants' claim 19, as it does not specifically recite the step of 'determining which interface converter paddle is coupled to a serdes', as taught by the first limitation of Applicants' claim 19.

Latif's switch 135 is apparently capable of merely receiving data from different interfaces. However, Latif does not disclose devices or methods for more intelligent determination (as taught in the first limitation of Applicants' claim 19) or identification (as taught in the second limitation of Applicants' claim 19). The mere fact that the switch 135 of Latif is capable of receiving different data signals does not further indicate that that the switch 135 is also capable of making any determinations or identifications about the protocols of those signals and then responding accordingly. Assuming otherwise is not enough to support a 102 rejection. Latif simply does not disclose each and every element or step of Applicants' claim 19. Thus, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections herein and submit that claim 19 is in condition for allowance in its current form. Accordingly, dependent claims 20-22 and 24-27 are also in condition for allowance, at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable claim 19.

Furthermore, Latif does not recite any of the structural elements recited in Applicants' claims 1, 10, 28, and 37. Specifically, Latif does not teach or disclose first and second interface converter paddles as taught by Applicants' claims 1, 10, 28, and 37. Latif does not recite the structure elements of Applicants' claims 1, 10, 28, and 37, much less teach the

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step of 'determining' which interface converter paddle is coupled to the series utilizing a communication protocol.

Thus, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and submit that claims 1, 10, 28, and 37 are in condition for allowance in their current form. Accordingly, Applicants' dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-18, 29-31 and 33-36 are also in condition for allowance, at least for the reason that they depend from allowable independent claims 1, 10 or 28.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 7-9, 14, 16-18, 23, 25-27, 32, 34-36 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 5, 14, 23 and 32 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that claims 5, 14, 23, and 32 are now in condition for allowance.

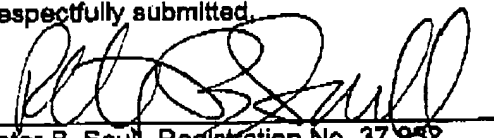
Applicants submit that dependent claims 7-9, 16-18, 25-27 and 34-36 are in condition for allowance in their current form and incorporate their above arguments, *supra*.

#### Conclusion

Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: May 5, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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